

Overview - Broadband in the Commonwealth

History

- The Commonwealth has had a broadband program (of one type or another) since the late 1990's, primarily housed in the Center for Innovative Technology
- Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance created in 2008 to solidify the Commonwealth's commitment to facilitating broadband access.
- The Virginia Tobacco Commission is the largest "investor" in broadband in the Commonwealth. To date, the TIC has approved:
 - **\$106 million** through several programs (primarily the Technology grant fund), PLUS **\$8.1 million** of new committed grants through the Reserve Fund (primarily for the announced MBC and Buggs Island Round One NTIA grants), and we have an additional **\$7.6 million** committed in Reserve fund for Round Two NTIA proposals currently under consideration.
 - The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and the Virginia Resource Authority also provide funding (planning grants/loans) for broadband deployments.
 - 2009 - Broadband Advisory Council created (11 member appointed body)
 - 2010 – Legislation enacted mandating cost coverage for telemedicine services (SB 675-Wampler)

Mapping

- Virginia was the first state in the nation to produce a broadband availability map based on address level data submitted by service providers and to do so at no additional cost to the taxpayers.
- In 2009, the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) was designated to be the Commonwealth's "mapping" entity and in March 2010, CIT was awarded \$2.3 million to perform mapping and planning initiatives throughout VA. Partners on the mapping component include the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), Virginia Tech, and 4 private sector firms.
 - In addition to pursuing the development of a second-generation broadband availability map, the partners are actively coordinating with healthcare initiatives (office of the national coordinator) to leverage funding and to pinpoint healthcare sites that may be "at risk" of being unable to attain meaningful use (of electronic medical records) due to the absence of affordable broadband access.

ARRA submissions/Awards

- **Round One:** Virginia had 137 applications submitted to RUS/NTIA (across the three categories of infrastructure/sustainable broadband demand/public computing centers) for **Round One** funding. Of that number 66 projects were “by Virginia entities, for Virginia communities” which became the Commonwealth’s priority projects for NTIA funding (note: RUS does not solicit state input). To date, Virginia has received six awards totaling \$56.9 million
 - Buggs Island Telephone (\$19 million - NTIA)
 - Mid-Atlantic Broadband (\$16 million - NTIA)
 - Virginia Tech Foundation (\$5.5 million - NTIA)
 - Nelson County (\$1.8 million - RUS)
 - Ntleos – Alleghany County (\$16 million – RUS loan/grant combination)
- **Round Two,** there have been 55 applications made to NTIA (RUS application are not included in the www.broadbandusa.gov database) across the three categories that referenced Virginia – of those 24 met the “by Virginia, for Virginia” criteria and are being submitted as priority projects for NTIA – Round 2 consideration. (total priority project funding requests equal \$195,163,027.00)

Future Activities

- **CIT** – “call for provider data” for the NTIA mapping initiative has gone out – NDA’s are being signed and data is coming in. First submission to NTIA is June 15
- **CIT** – regional broadband planning meetings (in concert with meetings of the broadband advisory council) will begin late summer/early fall to document “barriers, opportunities, success stories, and collaborative initiatives)
- **SOTECH/Governor’s Office** – (by May 3rd) will be providing to NTIA, Virginia’s list of priority projects for Round Two. It will follow the “by Virginia, for Virginia” definition used during Round One.
- **SOTECH** – will monitor the evolution of the National Broadband Plan and determining policy implications and opportunities.
- **Secretaries of Health, Commerce and Trade, Education and Technology** - will continue to collaborate/cooperate on areas of leverage and cooperation for the deployment of broadband applications – distance learning, smart grid, telemedicine, electronic medical record usage, etc.